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Some decisions have lately taken place in the courts of law in this country, which are likely to produce a great change in the system of discounting in the town of Belfast. It has been adjudged that if any sum exceeding 6 per cent per annum, be taken on bills, whether under the name of commission, or any other denomination, the laws against usury apply, and that particularly giving bills which have some time to run, as cash is usury in an aggrevated form. On the question of law, the business appears to be decided, as to the propriety of allowing such practices in a commercial country, much may be said on both sides. If men of small capitals are assisted by such a practice to carry on trade, they may also be oppressed if the exactions are too great, and the profits of the trade may come ultimately to centre in the coffers of the discounter. In some cases the weak may be advantageously aided, but in others an undue extension of trade beyond the capital of the trader, may be encouraged to his own injury, and in many cases to the injury of those in the same trade with him; and this mode of raising money by drawing and redrawing, is attended with so heavy charges, as almost in all cases to sink those who engage deeply in it.

During the current month, exchange has risen to $8\frac{1}{4}$ and $8\frac{1}{5}$ per cent, for gold, while the premium on guineas has fallen to 1, and latterly to $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

MEDICAL REPORT.

List of Diseases occurring in the practice of a Physician in Belfast, from April 20, till May 20.

Barometer....highest	30 10	Thermometer.....highest	73 30
mean	29 30	mean	42 00
lowest	29 0	lowest	34 00

Typhus,	1	Contagious fever.
Pneumonia,	1	Pleurisy.
Opthalmia,	4	Inflammation of the eyes.
Rheumatismus acutus,	2	Acute rheumatism.
Phthisis Pulmonalis,	1	Consumption.
Asthma,	2	Asthma.
Amaurosis,	2	Blindness without apparent disease.
Aphtha,	1	Thrush.
Variola,	1	Small pox.
Scrophula,	6	Evil.
Herpes,	4	Tetter, vulgarly called scurvy.
Pyrosis,	1	Waterbrash.
Hæmoptysis,	1	Spitting of blood.
Epylepsia cerebralis,	2	Convulsions.
Colica,	2	Colic.
Hysteria,	1	Hysterics.
Rachitis,	1	Rickets.
Anasarca,	1	General Dropsy.
Gonorrhœa, *Syphilis*,	8	Venereal disease.
Morbi infantiles,	27	Febrile and bowel complaints of children.

The diseases of this month are not marked by any particular character, unless it be mildness, fever is gradually wearing away, which together with the absence of small-pox, measels, scarlet-fever and hooping-cough, ought to be esteemed a blessing, for although the list presents one case of small-pox, it cannot be altogether referred to the diseases of Belfast or its neighbourhood, as the child was sent here to be inoculated for cow-pox and brought the disease with it from a distance of ten or twelve miles, nor has it spread, as most of the children in the street where it remained had been previously vaccinated, one of the cases of amaurosis, or gutta serena, decidedly overturns an opinion of Dr. Darwin and some others, that "this is a disease of dark eyes only," the subject of it having light blue eyes; electricity, calomel, hemlock and a seaton had been all tried in vain, when it occurred to your reporter that galvanism might be useful in removing the torpid or paralytic state of the optic nerve, but he is obliged to declare that neither in this nor in two similar cases was there the slightest benefit derived from its application; and in the case of a man who killed himself by drinking a large quantity of spirits its effects were much less in

producing muscular motion than where sudden death had taken place from any other kind of violence, the irritable principle being, as your reporter supposes nearly exhausted by the stimulus of the ardent spirit; but although it has been inefficacious in these cases, it has been applied with marked advantage in rheumatism and some other complaints and it has removed tooth-ache almost instantaneously.

NATURALIST'S REPORT.

From April, 20, to May 20.

Through the garden now we'll range,
View its sweets and mark its change,
Beauteous fav'rites of a day!
Oh! how sweet the breath of May,
Oh! how rich her form appears,
Bounteous smiling thro' her tears,
As the day-star riding high,
Clears the lately clouded sky.

WESTAL.

The wise and the simple, the learned and unlearned, of every age and every nation, have dwelt with raptures on the pleasures of spring, and cold and desponding must be that heart, which is not elated at the awakening of nature from the death-like sleep of winter. A pleasure arises like that from meeting an old friend, on beholding the enlivened plants again displaying their fragrant or gaudy blossoms: a thousand pleasing or melancholy reflections, fix themselves in the imagination, and the sensations which we experienced when last we saw their evolving beauties re-occupy their place in the mind.

Seldom has spring appeared with more graceful mein than at present, her progress has not been interrupted by the usual frowns of winter, and the trifling check which vegetation received, only retarded the flowering to a more genial period, and in full luxuriance the fragrant orchard now presents the pleasing prespect of a fruitful autumn.

22, Peach leaved Willow (Salix amygdalina) Common Plum (Prunus domestica) Bird Cherry (Prunus avium) flowering, and Willow Wren (Motacilla Trochilus) come and singing.

23, Stichwort or Starwort (Stellaria Holostea) flowering, and Nettle Butterfly (Papila urtica) plenty.

24, Byzantine Squill (Scilla amoena) flowering, and Orange Tip Butterfly (Papilio Cardamimes) appearing.

25, Purple Orchis (Orchis mascula) Cuckoo flower (Cardamine pratensis) flowering.

30, Thyme leaved Speedwell (Veronica serpyllifolia) Hoop petticoat Narcissus (Narcissus Bulbocodium) flowering, Willow wren plenty.

May 1, Mountain Speedwell (Veronica montana) flowering.

3, Bristly leaved Lychnidea (Phlox setacea) flowering. A swallow (Hirundo rustica) flying about.

4, Cow Parsley (Chœrophyllum sylvestre) Oriental Narcissus (Narcissus orientalis) flowering.

5, Swallows plenty, and the Cuckoo (Cuculus canorus) singing.

6, Louse Wort (Pedicularis sylvatica) flowering.

7, Germander Speedwell (Veronica Chamœdrys) Harebell (Scilla nutans) Tuberous bitter Vetch (Orobus tuberosus) Blue Flowered Bugle (Adjuga reptans) flowering.

8, Rail (Gallinula crex) calling, Herrings (Clupea Harrengus) appear in Belfast Lough.

10, Tulips (Tulipa Gesneri) flowering.

11, Torrent avens (Geum rivale) Apple (Pyrus Malus) flowering, and White spot Butterfly (Papilio Ægeria) appearing.

12. Broom (Spartium scoparium) Buck-bean (Menyanthes trifoliata) flowering, and White throat (Motacilla sylvia. Lin.) come and singing.

13, Sitfast (Ranunculus repens) flowering.

14, Yellow Poppy (Papaver Cambricum) Awl-leaved Spurry (Spergula subulata) Wood Geranium (Geranium sylvaticum) flowering, and Sedge Warbler (Motacilla salicaria. Lin.) come.

15, White Lilac (Syringa vulgaris) flowering.

16, Crimson flowering Pœony (Pœonia peregrina) and fine leaved Pœony (Pœonia tenuifolia) flowering.